



CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER



MAY 2010

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE TO BE HELD AT SAME TIME AS ISLAND PARK DRIVE'S, THUS CREATING AN EXTRAVAGANZA

Mark **Saturday, June 5** on your calendar as the day for the community-wide garage sale.

If Saturday turns out to be a rainy day, the event will be held on Sunday, June 6.

Remember that early birds will be looking for bargains as early as 7:30 a.m.

If you have **leftover treasures** when the garage sale ends, keep in mind that the City of **Ottawa's Spring Give Away Weekend** will take place the same weekend as the garage sale (both days). Rules for setting out Give Away treasures are:

- Place items at the curb.
- Place stickers or signs on them with the word "FREE" clearly marked.
- Keep other items away from the ones you want to give away.
- At the end of the weekend, take any items still at the curb back to your home.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WILL BEGIN SOON

Champlain Park's annual membership drive will take place during the first two weeks of June. Expect to have

friendly neighbours knocking on your door, usually in the early evening hours or during the weekend.

Last year, our membership volunteers collected from 71 per cent of the households in Champlain Park. This represents 265 memberships. Total value of last year's membership drive was \$2,509.

This year all memberships will cost \$10.00 per household, as voted on and passed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of our community association in late 2009.

This money goes to a variety of services for the neighbourhood such as the Champlain Speaker, Halloween party, Christmas sleigh ride, winter carnival, presentations before the Committee of Adjustment and Ontario Municipal Board, plus buying supplies and appliances for the fieldhouse.

We would like to thank our association's former secretary, long-time neighbour, and friend, Karen Maser. Even though Karen has left Ottawa for the exciting life of Wolfville, N.S., she still found the time to update our membership list in recent months. This is a complicated and frustrating task requiring many hours at the computer. Thank you, Karen.

Let me also thank the many volunteers who will be devoting many hours in canvassing their neighbours.

At this time, some routes still do not have anyone to collect during the membership drive. If you would like to help out, please call me at 613-725-5488.

—by Craig Wells

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CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Co-chairs: Lynne Bankier (729-0955)
and Heather Pearl (725-1422)

Vice-chair: Jonathan Chaplan
(728-7670)

Secretary: Alexi Campbell
(792-3829)

Treasurer: David Bartlett (301-9660)

Fieldhouse co-ordinator:
Laurie Fagan (728-1945)

Neighbourhood Watch:
Michael Cheng (722-3344)
Patrick Mates, (722-4120)

Spring cleanup coordinator:
Ian Reid and Andrea Murphy (715-9504)

Planning: Amy Kempster (722-6039)

Other roles:

Membership: Craig Wells (725-5488)

Banking: potter (728-4980)

CHAMPLAIN SPEAKER - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Potter, Emma Morris, Linda Steele, Nancy
Leigh-Smith, Benjamin Holland, Marlene
Kells, Kelly Egan.

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basis with the generous support of the
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UPDATE ON 171 CARLETON AVE.

At a meeting on April 7 before Ottawa's Committee of Adjustment, Lynne Bankier presented the community association's objections to the development proposed for 171 Carleton Avenue. After consultation with neighbours, other executive members, and a committee formed to address the application, our community association opposed the development, which seeks to build two semi-detached buildings (four dwellings) on a site zoned to allow only two dwellings on this 100 x 100 foot lot. The mass of the proposed development, building scale, reduced greenspace, and current patterns in the neighbourhood were all cited as reasons for opposing the development. Safety concerns (as presented by Craig Wells) based on a reduced "corner lot sight triangle" (required for driver/pedestrian visibility at the corner) were also addressed.

Our presentation was thorough and complimented by the Committee Chair. However, the Committee of Adjustment has allowed this development, citing intensification policies. Our community association has decided not to appeal the decision to the Ontario Municipal Board. Instead, we have opted to sign a letter of commitment, also signed by one of the owner/developers, that in return for not appealing the decision, the owners will hire a landscape architect who will liaise with us with the goal of maximizing green landscaping "to mitigate the visual impacts of the buildings" along the public frontages on Carleton and Clearview.

Other items agreed to by the owners include:

- Preservation and protection during construction of some of the existing trees (as required and specified by the City of Ottawa);
- Planting of new trees, shrubs and plants and limiting "hardscaping" to the driveways, as delineated on the site plan.

"Hardscaping" has been an issue in other communities where some new developments have been planned and constructed with very little in the way of the green garden and lawn frontages that characterize our community.

Thanks goes to the following other people who participated: Heather Pearl, Marc Prince, Daniel Buckles, Debra Kaulback, Jonathan Chaplan, Connie Barrowclough, Elizabeth Mundell, Ben Svendhard, Amy Kempster, Patrick Mates and neighbours in the 60 metre notification circle for the development who attended the meeting with the developer and/or wrote letters.

-Lynne Bankier

THANK YOU!

Veronica Sigurdson is a Nepean High School student who redesigned the Champlain Speaker late in 2009 and began doing the monthly layout to ease your editor's burden. Now she and her family are moving from their home on Patricia Ave. Best wishes and thanks so much, Veronica!

REPORTING ROAD PROBLEMS

Here's a way to get quick action. You can report road problems in Champlain Park using a Canada-wide website.

Charles Hodgson of Daniel Ave. told the Speaker:

I saw an open sewer drain cover yesterday so at about 6 p.m. I reported it via a website I'd heard about. By 6 a.m. it was fixed.

Visit: <http://fixmystreet.ca/reports/328>

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH LOSES A STRONG ADVOCATE

With the death of Neil Robertson in April, our local Neighbourhood Watch committee lost an important member of its small team.

Alexander Smith has agreed to manage an e-mail list that sends out alerts from our local Neighbourhood Watch committee. If you wish to be **informed by e-mail** of break-ins or other crimes occurring in our neighbourhood, please send Alexander an e-mail at agsmith@ncf.ca.

Please note: although Alexander is taking care of this task, the Neighbourhood Watch list is **NOT the same** as the general listserv for the Champlain Park community. You may want to sign up for BOTH in order to stay completely informed.

Many thanks to Alexander for taking on these important roles in our community.

VOLUNTEERS FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WELCOME TO APPLY

Not everyone in Champlain Park has access to e-mail, so there is sometimes still a need to communicate in the old-fashioned way, with a flyer delivered to people's homes. This is what happened in early March when the "crime spree" of attempted

TEENS AVAILABLE FOR BABYSITTING

Emma J. -----728-6681
 Berlin-----722-2248
 Leigh -----715-9473
 Anastasia ----- 728-9014
 Emma M. ----- 728-4642
 Alexandra -----722-7482
 Ben ----- 729-1218
 Emma I. -----728-1063
 Fiona -----761-9262
 Karah P. -----722-6039
 Elisabeth (bilingual) -----722-0454
 Hanna L. (bilingual)-----792-1891

Babysitting, spring cleaning and light yard work: call Will at 728-1945

break-ins and the arrest of two people for an actual break-in plagued the neighbourhood.

Our Neighbourhood Watch folks will be reviewing and updating the list of Block Captains. This is a list that Neil Robertson had compiled and worked with.

Should you wish to become involved in our community's Neighbourhood Watch program, the time is right, the effort involved is minimal, and the rewards are great! You'll be helping to keep our neighbourhood safer during the summer months.

Please contact Patrick Mates or Michael Cheng for more information about how you can help out.

- Michael Cheng can be reached at 613-722-3344 or cheng@sympatico.ca
- Patrick Mates can be reached at 613-722-4120 or patrickmates@hotmail.com.

FREE HOME SECURITY INSPECTIONS

Our community police officer Andrew Milton (based at the Hintonburg Community Centre), reminded the 15 residents who attended the April 29 meeting on home security at our Champlain Park fieldhouse that trained volunteers are available to conduct free home security audits.

Patrick Mates is such a volunteer. He does an excellent job. To request a free audit, do NOT contact Patrick. Instead, call Constable Milton at 613-236-1222 ext. 5871 or e-mail miltona@dottawapolice.ca.

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AMY'S CORNER WILL RETURN IN JUNE OR SEPTEMBER.



SPRING CLEANUP REPORT

It was a warm sunny day and about 20 people of all ages came to help with Champlain Park's spring cleanup on Saturday, April 24.

Many thanks to Ian Reid and Andrea Murphy of Patricia Ave. for organizing the event. The other volunteers were:

- Louise Atkins
- Brad, Sarah, Josie, and Lucy Brooks
- Detlef and Annika Hess
- Craig Wells and Maija Adamsons
- Kori and Vrenti Guergari
- Desmond Thomas and Alex Hay
- Zack Robillard
- Deborah of Carleton Ave. along with Brianna and Valerie
- Will Egan.



Louise Atkins of Cowley Ave. discovered a pile of construction debris on Pontiac and went home to get her wheelbarrow and shovel. This was after filling a bag of trash in the same area.



Kori and Vrenti Guergari of Daniel Ave. took to the beach and riverbank on cleanup day.

—photos by Andrea Murphy

DARK SKY COMPLIANCE: DOES YOUR PROPERTY FIT THE CRITERIA?

The International Dark Sky Association (IDA) defines light pollution as:

Any adverse effect of artificial light including sky glow, glare, light trespass, light clutter, decreased visibility at night, and energy waste.

Many municipalities in North America are adopting policies to reduce light pollution and to save energy by using new technology and by raising public

awareness about this problem. In urban neighbourhoods, glare and light trespass are problems that we can solve with knowledge and new fixtures.

Visit www.darksky.org to learn more.

Some communities, like Flagstaff, Arizona, have won IDA awards for the efforts they are making to reduce sky glow and energy waste.

—by Debra Huron



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REMEMBERING NEIL ROBERTSON 1938–2010

TRIBUTES BY FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE
CHAMPLAIN PARK COMMUNITY



Shown here with Genie, one of the Robertson's three dogs, Neil usually preferred to get from place to place on foot.

–photo by Barb Robertson

A PERFECT GENTLEMAN

Neil Robertson was a perfect gentleman.

He was gentle in manner and speech but rigorous in services to our community.

For the past 18 years, Neil and I worked closely on the Neighbourhood Watch program. He and his wife, Barb, would walk the streets of our neighbourhood with his dogs. Neil noted security issues that might need attention and I would liaise with the police and attend related meetings.

Neil used his computer skills and facilities to compose the Neighbourhood Watch map, summarizing key data in a simple way. In addition, he

operated the e-mail alert network disseminating neighbourhood security advice to residents who signed up for it.

Neil's contribution to our community is monumental. We miss you, Neil!

–Michael Cheng, on behalf of Champlain Park Neighbourhood Watch

A "PRESENCE"

In addition to his role in Neighbourhood Watch, Neil and Barb Robertson printed and distributed the Champlain Speaker for a number of years. He always

came to the AGM, and was a "presence" around the neighbourhood, often to be seen walking the dogs or strolling by the river, with Barb ever at his side.

Our thoughts are with Barb at this difficult time.

–Lynne Bankier, co-chair of the Champlain Park Community Association

DOG'S BEST FRIEND

Zack is our dog. He is a Bichon Frise, born on April Fool's Day six years ago. Zack became a member of our family when he was six weeks old after our son Avery said he needed to have a pet because he has no siblings.

Our neighbors, young and old, welcomed Zack warmly and we believe Zack thinks everyone was

born to pat him. This was not always true, except for one person: Neil Robertson.

Whenever Neil saw Zack from afar, Neil would stop, smile broadly and wait for Zack to come and enthusiastically greet him (Zack would jump up again and again on Neil's legs). Neil would bend down to affectionately pat Zack. As some of you may know, Neil was not bereft of dogs. He had quite a few of them, small and medium sized, young and old, and even one that he found abandoned in the woods during a rainstorm who ended up in his home as a pet.

Sometimes, one of Neil's dogs would snarl at Zack when Neil would pay attention to Zack. Often, Neil walked his dogs one at a time, then went home to pick up another dog for a walk. I am sure Zack was very happy to see Neil but Zack has a very short memory. He will not know that Neil, his pal, left forever on April 16, 2010 and will not come back to Champlain Park to pat him. However, many people in the neighborhood who had contact with Neil will not forget. I am one of them.

I will remember Neil with Barb, whom he called his "bride" of many years, as they walked hand-in-hand to John's restaurant for breakfast on Saturday mornings. It was a ritual that I dared not disturb, meaning I could not ask for babysitting from Barb on Saturday mornings. Isn't it nice to have a constant date with your spouse after so many years of living together, raising children, and having grandchildren? Not only that, I will remember Neil and Barb, hand-in-hand again, wandering back from walks to the Ottawa River. Barb would have her camera with her and tell me what birds she had taken pictures of.

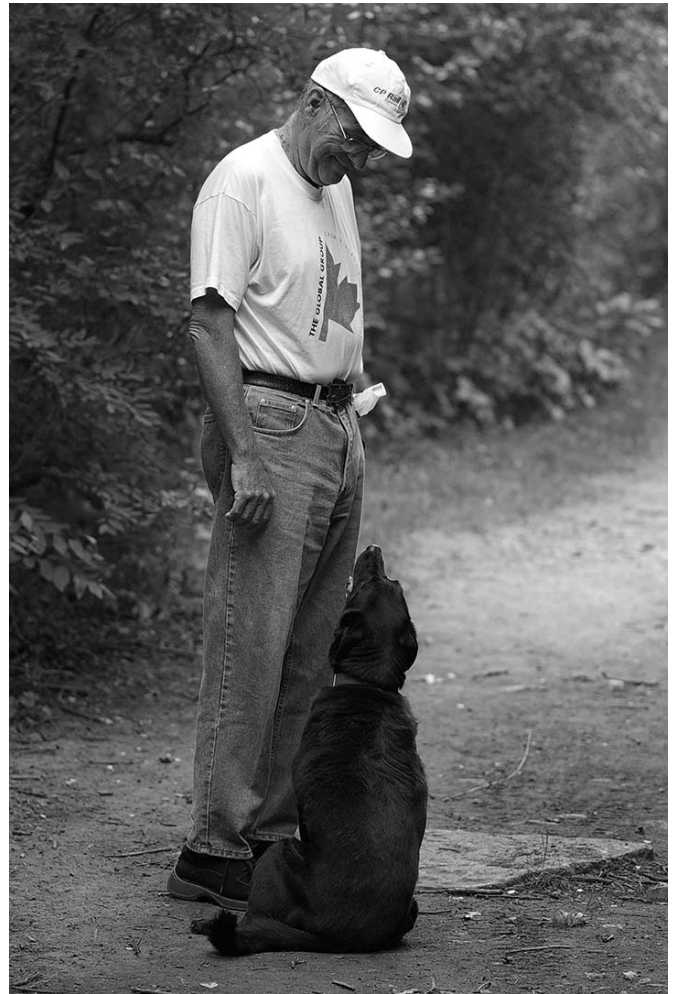
I will also remember when a neighbor complained that because of the school bus stop at his corner, the kids in the neighborhood, including Avery, had trampled his lawn and killed it. Neil did not mind having the school bus stop at his corner. He laughed when he saw the kids fight on his lawn and hide in his hedge while waiting for the bus.

If there is reincarnation, I hope our paths will cross again, Neil. —by Nhung Hoang of Cowley Avenue

GRANDFATHER OF OUR STREETS

I don't have a dog and Neil used to find it amusing, I think, that I was a bit afraid of Genie, the black dog shown in both these pictures. Genie died earlier this year, as did one of Neil and Barb's other dogs.

Genie used to pull at her leash in a wild desire to get closer to any human being in her vicinity. She was just being friendly, something that it took me a while



—photo by Barb Robertson

to figure out. The same was not true when it came to Neil Robertson—I knew he was friendly right from the start.

When our family first moved to Champlain Park about 14 years ago, Neil and Barb were some of the first older residents I got to know. They were like the grandmother and grandfather of our neighbourhood.

At that time, their little company, Paw Prints, produced the Champlain Speaker. I wrote articles for the newsletter and started to feel really at home here. When our son went to Neil and Barb's for after-school care during his years at Elmdale School, I came to know that Neil liked music, that he was a committed member of the Northwestern United Church, and that he was the kind of man not embarrassed to hold his wife's hand when they were out for walk.

Neil was always out walking. He helped to keep our streets safe with his presence. He made our community stronger by getting to know people and by stopping to chat. I miss him, as do all who knew him.

—by Debra Huron